

Quick Reads

Gerd W. Clabaugh, MPA
Director, Iowa Department of Public Health



Meet Dr. Caitlin Pedati

With roots on the East Coast and a newfound affection for the Midwest, Dr. Caitlin Pedati joined IDPH as Medical Director/State Epidemiologist in late summer of this year. A native of the Washington, DC area, Dr. Pedati received her Bachelor of Science from Georgetown University and her Doctor of Medicine and Master of Public Health in Epidemiology from George Washington University.

Prior to IDPH, Dr. Pedati worked in a variety of health settings including hospitals, the CDC and most recently, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Caitlin says she is excited to be in Iowa; she loves Midwestern sunsets and star-gazing, and appreciates the genuine and friendly people – not to mention the lack of traffic!

In her spare time (what there is of it), Caitlin likes to sketch, read, bike (RAGBRAI is on her to-do list) and cook. She once went scuba diving in Australia with sand tiger sharks and no cage (photographic proof below) and likes cars; she made a stop at the Corvette museum in Kentucky while moving to the Midwest. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Pedati to Iowa and to IDPH!



Flu vaccination campaign

According to the CDC, fewer than 4 in 10 U.S. adults got flu shots last winter – one likely reason last flu season was so severe. In addition to the department's regular flu vaccination messages, IDPH is working with television stations statewide to promote flu shots. [KIMT](#) in Mason City and [WHO](#) in Des Moines are two television stations that have featured reporters receiving their flu shots live on the air. We are looking forward to working with more media outlets to "Fight the Flu."

CBD dispensaries to open

Iowa's five medical cannabidiol (CBD) [dispensaries](#) will open for business December 1. When open, these dispensaries will offer three forms of medical CBD (gel capsules, tincture and cream) to Iowans with a valid patient or caregiver registration card.

In order to purchase [medical CBD](#), Iowans must have a qualifying condition or be an approved caregiver for a patient with a qualifying condition, and have a registration card. Iowans who have received a letter from the Department of Public Health informing them their application has been approved must also pick up a registration card at an Iowa driver's license station before they can make a dispensary purchase.

Making the grade

The 2018 March of Dimes [Premature Birth Report Card](#) gives [Iowa](#) an overall "B" grade. Grades were determined by comparing the March of Dimes' goal of a preterm birth rate of 8.1 percent by 2020 to each state's 2017 rate. Iowa's percentage of live births born preterm in 2017 was 9.2.



IDPH spotlight: Comprehensive Cancer Control

The IDPH [Comprehensive Cancer Control Program](#) (CCCP) is unique in that it covers the entire cancer control spectrum - from [prevention, screening and treatment](#), to quality of life for cancer survivors. Using data from sources including the Iowa Cancer Registry, Iowa Immunization Program Annual Report and more, targets are determined for the [Iowa Cancer Plan](#), and progress is monitored and evaluated.

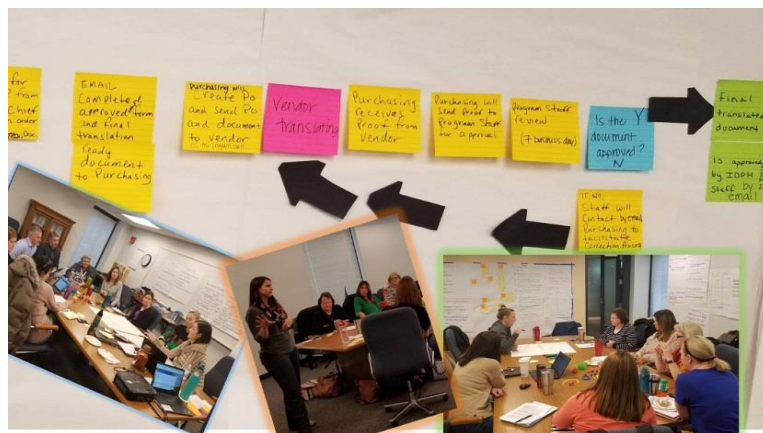
Because of CCCP's wide scope, a large and diverse array of partners is needed. In addition to the Iowa Cancer Consortium, American Cancer Society and Iowa Cancer Registry, partners outside the department include the Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi, local public health agencies, healthcare providers, insurers (including the Medicaid Managed Care Organizations), health systems and other non-profit organizations.

Intradepartmental partnerships include the Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Division, Immunization Program, Radon Program and the Nutrition and Physical Activity Bureau; these are in addition to programs within the Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Management, such as the Care for Yourself Breast and Cervical Cancer Program and the Iowa Get Screened Colorectal Cancer Screening Program.

[Health equity](#) is a major focus of CCCP. Data is used to identify and monitor health disparities. For example, CCCP contracted with the University of Iowa to create [interactive maps](#) of Iowa to show geographic disparities in incidence and mortality for eight different types of cancer. These maps are useful for determining potential locations for cancer prevention and screening interventions. The CCCP, together with the Consortium, ACS and other partners, works to achieve health equity by targeting specific populations that experience health disparities.

Quality Improvement projects

Quality Improvement continues at IDPH. With an eye on health equity, a new undertaking focuses on translation services. The large group (pictured below) spent two days analyzing the current process and is now working to improve procedures to make translation more uniform and efficient.



Congrats and kudos

Congratulations to former IDPH Medical Director, Dr. Patricia Quinlisk, who will be awarded a University of Iowa College of Public Health [2018 Public Health Hero award](#).

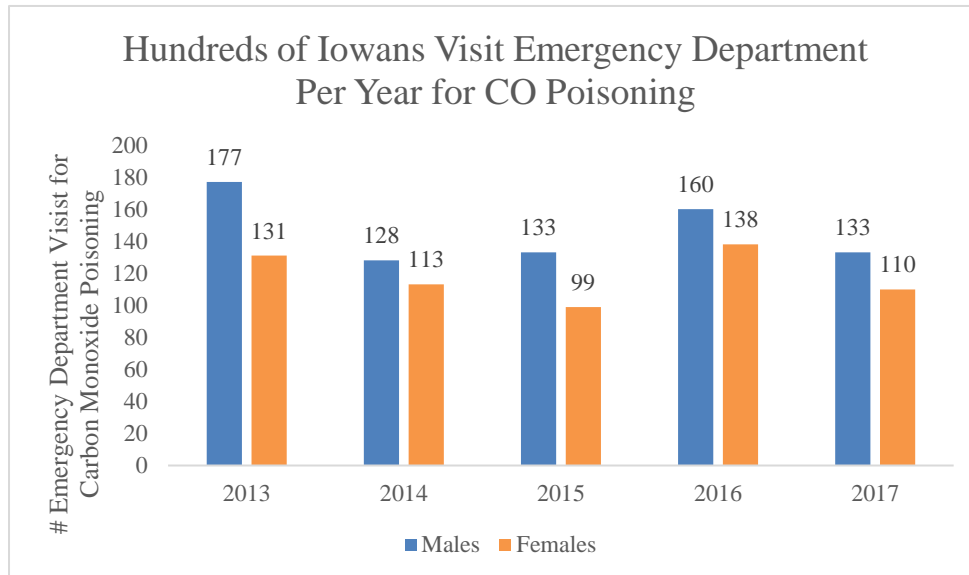
Congrats to IDPH's Shalome Lynch and Erin Olson, graduates of the most recent cohort of the [Great Plains Leadership Institute](#). Applications for the next cohort will be released in Spring 2019.

Thank you and congratulations to Linda Rosenberger (pictured below, center), who is retiring after more than 14 years with [Tama County Public Health and Home Care](#).



Monthly data snapshot

Data are essential to the practice of public health. Each month, Quick Reads highlights selected tidbits to help create awareness of IDPH data and epidemiology.



Source: Iowa Department of Public Health. Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal. Carbon Monoxide Poisoning. [https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/Health/Carbon-Monoxide-Poisoning]. Retrieved on 11/6/18.

According to data from the Iowa Hospital Association, hundreds of Iowans end up in the emergency room for carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning each year. In 2017, 31 Iowans died from carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide, a toxic gas that is invisible and odorless, can cause severe illness or death within minutes when inhaled. The most common symptoms are headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting and confusion. IDPH suggests having at least two working CO alarms in your home – one by the furnace and one by each bedroom. Find more carbon monoxide data or other public health data [here](#). Questions or comments about IDPH data can be sent [here](#).

Data Day

Nearly 200 IDPH staff participated in the department's Data Day. Ten 30-minute data-related trainings were presented October 18, with a goal of giving attendees a better sense of the data-related work the department does, who to ask for assistance when they need help on data-related projects, and what topics may interest them enough to take future trainings on [Iowa Public Health Data](#).

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